

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01222 101735Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----074917 101905Z /47

R 101013Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1222

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS, LE
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. GEN. SIILASVUO TOLD CONSUL GENERAL AUGUST 9
THAT THERE WAS SUSPICIOUS MILITARY MOVEMENT DURING
THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 8 IN THE VICINITY OF THE ARQUB.
ALTHOUGH NOT SEEN BY THE UN OBSERVERS AND THEREFORE
NOT REPORTED, UNHQ JERUSALEM BELIEVES CROSS BORDER
ATTACK MAY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BY IDG. UN LIAISON
OFFICER QUERIED IDF LIAISON OFFICER LEVINSON MORNING
OF AUGUST 9 AND LEVINSON CLAIMED NOT BE AU COURANT.

2. SIILASVUO DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT THE CHRISTIAN
POSITION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS DETERIORATED
SUDDENLY. MOREOVER, HE BELIEVES THE ISRAELI POSITION
INVOLVES CONTRADICTIONS. THE SYRIANS ARE ABLE TO
KEEP THINGS QUIET YET THEY ARE NOT PERMITTED
SOUTH OF THE LITANI. LEBANON IS INCAPABLE
OF PUTTING TOGETHER A FORCE THAT COULD DISCHARGE
SUCH A TASK. THE UN WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY
IN TAKING ON SUCH A JOB.

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3. SIILASVUO BELIEVES THE ISRAELIS ARE "HYPOCRITICAL"
IN THEIR CONCERN FOR THE CHRISTIANS. HE THINKS
THAT ISRAEL HAS PLAYED ON THEIR FEARS AND EGGED
THEM ON. IF ISRAEL WANTS TO KEEP SOME DISTANCE
BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE SYRIANS, WHY HE ASKS RHETORICALLY
WOULD ISRAEL MOVE UP TO THE LITANI WHERE THEY WOULD

MEET THE SYRIANS (ASSUMING THE SYRIANS WOULD WAIT FOR THEM TO GET TO THAT POINT).

4. A CONFIDENTIAL UN SOURCE IN JERUSALEM TOLD US AUG. 9 THAT THERE WAS HEAVY FIRING NIGHT OF AUG. 8 AROUND YARINE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. IDF CROSS-BORDER MORTAR FIRING WAS OBSERVED BY UNMO'S. ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT CONFIRM ANY CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT OF ISRAEL TROOPS, THERE WAS UNUSUAL FIGHTING REPORTED AROUND YARINE WHICH IS COMPLETELY MOSLEM/ LEFTIST TOWN. SOURCE SPECULATED THAT THIS KIND OF FIGHTING COULD HAVE COME FROM PRESENCE OF IDF FORCES BUT HE STRESSED THIS WAS JUST SPECULATION ON HIS PART.

5. UNMO'S HAVE NOT REPORTED ANY SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT OF FORCES WITHIN SOUTHERN LEBANON RECENTLY NOR ANY CHANGES IN POSITIONS HELD BY OPPOSING FORCES.

6. SOURCE THOUGHT THAT GOI WOULD NOT BE PLEASED WITH SECOND STAGE OF SHTOURA AGREEMENT WHICH ALLOWS PLO FORCES TO MOVE BACK INTO ARQUB AREA. HE NOTED HOWEVER, THAT SHTOURA AGREEMENT WAS NOT APPARENTLY BEING IMPLEMENTED YET AND, IN ANY CASE, HE HAD NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT
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PLO WAS AS YET MOVING INTO ARQUB.

7. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH UN SOURCE MORNING AUG. 10, WE WERE INFORMED THAT IDF FIRED 71 ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND ARTILLERY FIRE INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON NEAR YARINE NIGHT OF AUGUST 9.

8. SOURCE ALSO INFORMS US THAT LEBANESE ARMED FORCES COMMANDER-GENERAL KHOURY, HAS ASKED TO SEE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF ILMAC ON AUG. 12 TO REQUEST REACTIVATION OF MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION FOR ISRAEL AND LEBANON. UN OFFICERS BELIEVE THIS IDEA IS NON-STARTER AS IDF OFFICERS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT GOI WILL NOT AGREE TO SUCH FORMAL REACTIVATION.

9. SECRETARY'S PARTY HAS SEEN THIS MESSAGE.

NEWLIN

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